

FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

"Are the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) going to merge?", I have been asked. And I have had to answer, "I don't know." At this stage we are in conversation to determine whether or not we want to engage in "formal" conversations on the possibilities of union. That decision is projected to be made at the 1979 meetings of our two communions.

In the meanwhile, we are encouraged to engage in conversations, to study the issues, and to give input to our national committees by January 1, 1979. To facilitate that we have both established Conversation Committees. Because the Christian Church has separate judicatories for Oregon and Idaho, we have established separate committees.

The Oregon committees have had two meetings together and have outlined the following activities:

1. The Post Easter Ministers and Spouses Retreat to be held together around the conversations.
2. Ministers Cluster Meetings throughout the state.
3. Conversations at the local levels among the churches.
4. Workshops at our respective assemblies.
5. Conversations at other places, e.g. Women's Fellowship Meetings, Men's Retreats, Youth Activities, etc.
6. Develop and provide additional resources to facilitate the conversations.

The Idaho committees are just in process of formation and will be reporting to our churches soon. I encourage you to engage in these conversations. If under the guidance of the Holy Spirit our two great communions should unite, that will be a cause for rejoicing. If it should be that we are not led to union, we can still rejoice that we have come to know more intimately a sister church and our experience of the family of God's people has been enlarged. Moreover, in the process we will have come to know ourselves better, and that is always a benefit.

The Death and Resurrection theme which is at the heart of the Christian story is so fundamental to life isn't it? Again and again we must die in order that we might be reborn. And, indeed, we can never know for sure how that dying and arising might happen. Could it be that in these union conversations we are being called to die again that we might be made new creations in Christ?

Blessings on you.

-- Terry Kawata

The Local Scene

The Rev. Arlan Fick, minister at Riverside Community Church, Hood River, has announced his resignation effective May 1 following a pastorate of over seven years. Arlan has accepted a call to become Senior Minister at St. John's United Church of Christ in Woodland, Calif. During Arlan's tenure at Riverside, an exemplary program for Intern Ministers was instituted which brought a new intern to the church each year. Arlan has been deeply involved in Conference activities in a number of capacities. Best wishes to Arlan, Lani and family as they embark on their new adventure in Christian service.

Louis Miller, who grew up in the Oregon Conference, was very active in youth ministry in the Conference and recently graduated from Eden Theological Seminary, has been called as Minister to the Community Congregational Church, McCall, Idaho. Lou and his wife, Paula, begin their work in McCall immediately. On April 23, Lou will be ordained in the Parkrose Community Church, UCC, Portland, at 4:00 p. m. Lou's setting apart to the ordained Christian Ministry will be preceded by an informal session at 2:30 where he will present the paper concerning his own spiritual pilgrimage and beliefs. At that time, all ordained clergy, lay delegates and guests will have an opportunity to get to know Lou and welcome him into the Central Pacific Conference.

When the Rev. Larry Gruman, minister at First Congregational Church, Eugene, entered the hospital for surgery, he called upon the Rev. Rosemary Rocha, minister at the United Church of Christ, Ashland, to fill the pulpit for him. Larry is out of the hospital and recuperating. We wish him well!

Frog Pond United Church of Christ, Wilsonville, (also known as Meridian United Church of Christ), as part of their 100th Anniversary observance, has been restoring the interior of the Meeting House to a color scheme more in keeping with its original period. While treating the "grand old building" to a fresh coat of paint, the workers were treated to a display of relics and memorabilia from the building's past.

The Rev. Farley Maxwell, Waverly Heights United Church of Christ, Portland, has prepared a paper, "Facing Death as Christians", which urges church members to think through various issues related to terminal illness and death. Members have been discussing the paper during Lent. Additional copies are available by writing Farley.

Our Idaho Falls Congregational Church and the efforts of church members and their pastor, the Rev. Clyde Martin (who died last Summer), in responding to the Teton Dam disaster is the subject of an excellent article in the March A.D. The article also makes mention of but does not identify the ten teenagers and two adults from St. John's United Church of Christ, Tillamook, who carried out a work project in Roberts, Idaho.

Cedar Hills Community Church, UCC, Portland, and First Congregational Church, UCC, Corvallis, both have articles included in the newest edition of New Forms Exchange published by BHM. The Cedar Hills Church is cited for its Simpler Living Retreat.

The Rev. Anne Smith, Portland, President, of the United Church of Christ Women, will be serving as the Bible Study leader for the Annual State Assembly of Church Women United in Oregon meeting at Aldersgate April 4-5.

Watch out Portland Trailblazers! The women's basketball team of the Church of the Valley, UCC, Albany is undefeated for the year. Congratulations Coach Briggs! (Sharon -- not Harley.)

HOUSING NEEDED FOR WORK STUDY STUDENT

The Conference has the opportunity of hiring a Pacific University student for a work-study project this Summer. She would work with public relations/communications activities. We need to find housing for her for two months.

If you live in the Portland area and would be willing to explore the opportunity of having her in your home, please call Gene Ross at the Conference Office, 228-3178.

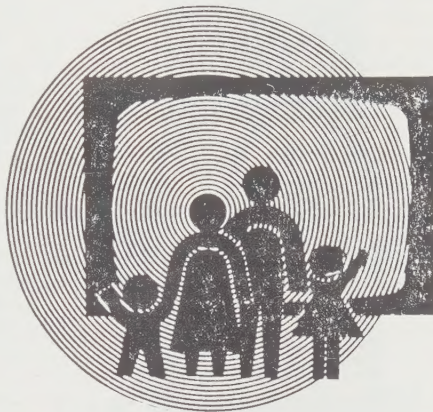
CHURCH LIFE ENRICHMENT EVENTS

TELEVISION AWARENESS TRAINING EVENT

Is your TV viewing an exciting experience? Do you view programs selectively? How is TV a constructive force in your life? Television Awareness Training (T-A-T) enables individuals, families and teachers to use television in creative ways. Training events are scheduled regionally for persons who want to become accredited T-A-T leaders or who are interested in a significant skill and awareness building experience around television's effects on values.

One of these national workshops is scheduled at the Seattle YMCA on April 28-30. Costs involved include \$100 registration and \$40 room and board. At these workshops the following areas are explored: An overview of television, violence, human sexuality, stereotyping, advertising, children's programs, news and strategies for change. In each case what is explored is the values involved.

Persons interested can write the Conference Office for further information and registration forms.



EVENT TO PROMOTE ECUMENICAL COALITION OF SOCIAL ACTION PERSONS



The Community Ministries Commission of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is sponsoring a Social Action Retreat April 7-8, at Community Church of Cedar Hills,

for the purposes of bringing denominational leaders, Social Action Task Force members and Commission members together to meet others who share the same concerns and issue priorities, to explore possibilities for social action networking in Oregon and to take a look at IMPACT as a model for social action networking in Oregon. This event, which will bring to Oregon ROBERT ODEAN, Executive Director of IMPACT, a social action network started by National denominational leaders among which are United Church of Christ persons.

For further information contact Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon or Gene Ross at the Conference Office.

FAMILY LIFE TASK FORCE SPONSORS ALTERNATIVE MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

May 12-14 are the days, Camp Adams is the place, and a FAMILY LIFE ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP is the event. Sponsored by the Family Life Task Force of the Conference, this event, which falls during Christian Family Week, May 7-14, is designed to give families the opportunity to come together for self-awareness activities, interaction, singing, workshops designed to help families with goal setting, communication and building self-esteem skills. Brochures describing the Workshop have been sent to each Conference church along with registration forms. Further inquiries can be made at the Conference Office.



Exploring Worship in a Congregation

The Office for Church Life and Leadership is introducing a new worship resource to the United Church of Christ. Actually a collection of resources, **EXPLORING WORSHIP IN A CONGREGATION** is rooted in the affirmation that worship is a primary function of all the people of God. The material in this collection is intended to encourage and assist pastors and lay leaders in working together in planning the worship life of the congregation.

Exploring Worship in a Congregation is a marked departure from the style and form of other worship resources which usually provide orders, prayers and similar material to be used by leaders as they conduct worship. In contrast, the major part of Exploring Worship in a Congregation is a series of Explorations with titles like "Exploring Worship Traditions and Meanings" and "Exploring Our Orders of Worship." These Explorations help people dig into and move toward a greater understanding of their church's worship life--its traditions, forms and meanings. Articles look at the sources of worship in the Church and help people envision how the worship life of their congregation might be deepened and

strengthened. A third source in the collection is a series of conversations with persons about helpful books, articles and other material for use in building the worship life of the congregation.

Exploring Worship in a Congregation makes no attempt to set norms for the nature and form of worship in a particular setting. It does not tell a congregation how it should worship. Rather, it seeks to assist the congregation in studying and reflecting seriously on the traditions from which their worship life comes and encourages them to take seriously the significant responsibility which is theirs for planning and leading worship. In doing so, that central experience of the community of faith can be deepened and enriched.

The Office for Church Life and Leadership plans to continue to develop resources for **EXPLORING WORSHIP IN A CONGREGATION**. This first packet in the series is available for \$5.00 from Church Leadership Resources, Box 179, St. Louis, Missouri 63166, or for use from the Conference Office.

THE LETTER "E"

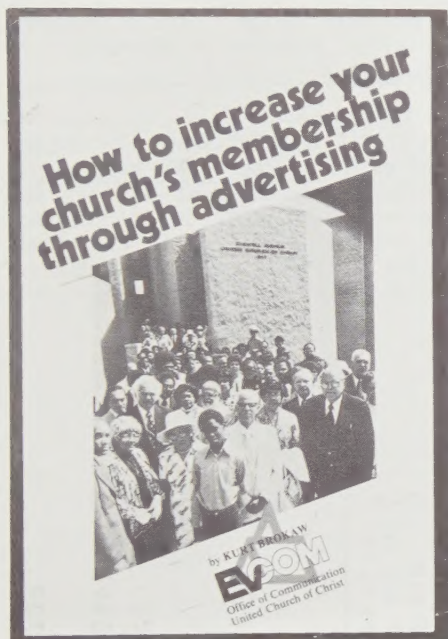
Someone has advanced the opinion that the letter "e" is the most unfortunate character in the English alphabet, because it is always out of cash, forever in debt, never out of danger, in hell all of the time, and never has been in Washington!

But we call attention to the fact that 'e' has blessed Tennessee four times, and is never in war, and always in peace. It is the beginning of existence, the commencement of ease, and the end of trouble.

Without it there would be no meat, no life, and no heaven. It is in the center of honesty, makes love perfect, and without it there would be no editor and no news!

-- United Ministries Newsletter, Washington

EVCOM EVENTS SLATED ACROSS STATE



Is your church looking for help in developing skills to aid in evangelism communication? Are you looking for help in how to prepare a news release? to use advertising effectively? to improve the church newsletter? to design a brochure? If your answer to these questions is yes, then the EVCOM WORKSHOPS slated across Oregon during the month of April are a resource your church needs to explore.

EVCOM, Evangelism/Communication, is a project originated by the UCC Office of Communication which has broadened its base to improve 10 denominations working together to improve the evangelism/communications skills of the local church. Last September a delegation representing Oregon denominations joined delegations from several other states in a training event underwritten by the Lilly Endowment. Out of that event an ecumenical management group was constituted to return to Oregon to promote similar EVCOM events across the state. Those events have now been planned and are scheduled for the following areas:

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| April 8 | Pendleton - First United Methodist Church |
| April 15 | Bend - First Presbyterian Church |
| April 22 | Portland - Cedar Hills Community Church |
| April 25 | Portland - Rose City Park Presbyterian Church |
| April 29 | Eugene/Springfield - First Congregational Church |
| April 30 | Medford - First United Methodist Church |

Each of these workshops will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. (The one exception is Medford where the time schedule is 3:00-9:00 p.m.)

Cost for these workshops is \$5.00 which includes all workshop materials. Participants are asked to bring sack lunches/suppers. Churches have been mailed Registration forms from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. If you have not received one or if you have questions about the events, please contact Gene Ross at the Conference Office.

Let's have a good turnout of UCC participants at these events.

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE SUMMER CAMP IN YOUR PLANS FOR THIS YEAR!
Tentative schedule was in February issue of the NEWS. Watch for Camp Brochures soon.

DATES TO REMEMBER



APRIL 1: CHRISTIAN NURTURE DEPARTMENT
at Parkrose Church

1: CONF. IDENTITY COMMUNICATIONS COM.
at Parkrose Church

2: FAMILY LIFE TASK FORCE
at Cedar Hills Church

3-4-5: MINISTERS, SPOUSES POST EASTER
RETREAT - at Lincoln City

7-8: EMO SOCIAL ACTION RETREAT
at Cedar Hills Community Church

8: EV-COM EVENT
at Pendleton Methodist

9: CE:SA CURRICULUM WORKSHOP
in Boise Area

11: WOMEN'S CLUSTER EVENT
at Medford Church

13: WOMEN'S CLUSTER EVENT
at Portland, Second

15: CE:SA CURRICULUM WORKSHOP
in Pocatello area

15: MISSION AND OUTREACH DEPARTMENT
at Interchurch Center

18: WOMEN'S CLUSTER EVENT
at Condon Church

20: WOMEN'S CLUSTER EVENT
at First Church, Salem

22: EXECUTIVE BOARD
at Interchurch Center

22: EV-COM EVENT
at Cedar Hills Community Church

25: WOMEN'S CLUSTER EVENT
at Nampa Church

25: EV-COM EVENT
at Rose City Park Presbyterian,
Portland

29: PROGRAM & ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE
at Interchurch Center

MAY 6: CAMP DIRECTORS TRAINING
at Camp Adams

12-14: FAMILY LIFE ENRICHMENT EVENT
at Camp Adams

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, VANCOUVER,
has an Elliott Addresserette for sale,
\$150 or best offer. Contact minister
Louis Taylor, 693-1476 or 693-4233.

PARENT COOPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL OF OREGON
has for sale a Roneo #250 Mimeograph.
It has been reconditioned and has new
silk screen pad. \$200. Please contact
Sharon Ehlers, 4405 S. W. Halcyon Road,
Tualatin, Ore. 97062, phone 638-4903.

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